

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PEKING 02548 170945Z
ACTION VO-05

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INSE-00 NSAE-00 ICA-11
CPR-03 CA-01 EB-08 /039 W
-----115876 180659Z /10
R 170803Z AUG 78
FM USLO PEKING
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1716
INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

C O N F I D E N T I A L

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PEKING 2548

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EMIN, ENRG, OVIP
SUBJ: PRC COAL MISSION TO US

REF: PEKING 2537

1. USLO HAS JUST RECEIVED VISA APPLICATIONS (REFTEL) FOR
19-MAN "COAL MINING SURVEY DELEGATION" TO VISIT THE U.S.
UNDER THE SPONSORSHIP OF THE NATIONAL COAL ASSOCIATION,
COAL BUILDING, 1130 17TH STREET, N.W., WASHINGTON, D.C.;
TELEPHONE 202-628-4322. GROUP HOPES TO LEAVE PEKING ON
SEPTEMBER 12 FOR A VISIT OF APPROXIMATELY 50 DAYS.

2. WE NOTE THAT DELEGATION IS HEADED BY TSOU TUNG, VICE
MINISTER OF THE COAL MINISTRY AND INCLUDES CHEN CHIEN-FEI,
VICE CHAIRMAN OF HEILUNGKIANG PROVINCIAL REVOLUTIONARY
COMMITTEE AND A HEILUNGKIANG CCP SECRETARY (BOTH MEN ARE
LISTED AS "ADVISERS" TO CHINA COAL SOCIETY). THIS IS THE
FIRST WE WERE AWARE OF THIS MISSION.

3. DEVELOPMENT OF PRC COAL RESOURCES IS, OF COURSE, A VERY
HIGH PRIORITY ECONOMIC GOAL FOR PRC, AND SUBSTANTIAL AMOUNTS
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OF FOREIGN EXCHANGE HAVE BEEN COMMITTED FOR PURCHASING
FOREIGN EQUIPMENT. A FEW U.S. MANUFACTURERS HAVE VISITED
THE PRC AND SOME SALES HAVE BEEN MADE, BUT WE ARE FACING
STRONG COMPETITION FROM WEST GERMANS, FRENCH, BRITISH,
AND (TO A LESSER EXTENT) JAPANESE IN THIS AREA. BECAUSE
OF THE IMPORTANCE OF THIS MISSION TO CHINA, THE SIGNIFICANT
U.S. EXPORT POTENTIAL, AND THE HIGH RANK OF THE DELEGATION

LEADERS, WE BELIEVE SOME USG INVOLVEMENT WITH THE VISIT
WOULD BE DESIRABLE, EVEN THOUGH THEY ARE GOING UNDER PRIVATE
AUSPICES. ALSO, AS FAR AS WE ARE AWARE, NATIONAL COUNCIL
FOR U.S.-CHINA TRADE IS NOT INVOLVED. USLO TENTATIVELY PLANS
TO INVITE GROUP TO A RECEPTION PRIOR TO THEIR DEPARTURE.
DEPARTMENT, USDOC, INTERIOR (BUREAU OF MINES) AND/OR DOE MAY
WISH TO CONSIDER HOSTING RECEPTION, GIVING BRIEFINGS, AND
POSSIBLY PROVIDING ESCORT FOR ALL OR PART OF DELEGATION'S
TOUR IN THE U.S. WOODCOCK

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: COAL, VISITS, MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978PEKING02548
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: DG ALTERED
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780337-1028
Format: TEL
From: PEKING
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780854/aaaabsno.tel
Line Count: 71
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: f5a3fc61-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION VO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 PEKING 2537
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1709650
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRC COAL MISSION TO US
TAGS: EMIN, ENRG, OVIP, (TSOU TUNG)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/f5a3fc61-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014